

## Message Text

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APPROVED BY OES/ENP/EN:DRKING  
OES/ENP:LGRANT  
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DOT:CTUCKER (SUBS)  
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TO USMISSION OECD PARIS

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E.O. 11652: NA

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SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE -- DEVELOPMENT OF 1978  
PROGRAM

REF: RODERICK JAN. 10 LETTER TO MEMBERS OF ENVIRONMENT  
COMMITTEE

1. MISSION REQUESTED PASS FOLLOWING TO SECRETARIAT AS  
U.S. RESPONSE TO REF LETTER SOLICITING COMMENTS ON 1978  
PROGRAM. (IF DESIRED, MISSION MAY PASS ON WHAT FOLLOWS  
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VERBATIM.)

2. WE STRONGLY SUPPORT THE EFFORT BY THE COMMITTEE AND  
THE SECRETARIAT TO FOCUS THE WORK PROGRAM BETTER THAN IN  
THE PAST, AND TO CONCENTRATE RESOURCES ON THE THREE AREAS  
AGREED UPON AT THE DECEMBER PLENARY.

3. IN LINE WITH THIS, AND IN VIEW OF THE FAIRLY LARGE  
NUMBER OF IMPORTANT NEW PROJECTS WHICH THE COMMITTEE  
MIGHT WISH TO UNDERTAKE IN 1978, WE THINK THE SECRETARIAT,

IN THE FIRST INSTANCE, AND THE COMMITTEE, IN THE SECOND, SHOULD LOOK CLOSELY AT THE ONGOING ACTIVITIES TO SEE WHETHER THERE ARE SOME WHICH COULD BE CUT BACK OR TERMINATED AHEAD OF SCHEDULE. THE PURPOSE WOULD BE TO MAKE ROOM FOR MORE OF THE PRIORITY PROJECTS WE SHOULD UNDERTAKE IN 1978 AND BEYOND. PROJECTS SUCH AS "TOURISM AND THE ENVIRONMENT," AND PARTS OF "IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES," ETC. MIGHT WELL BE ARGUED TO FALL OUTSIDE THE KEY PARTS OF THE GUIDELINES AND THUS BE POSSIBLE CANDIDATES FOR REVISION OR DELETION TO FREE UP RESOURCES FOR NEW PROJECTS THE COMMITTEE FEELS ARE MORE GERMANE TO ITS MAIN ROLE. WE REQUEST THE SECRETARIAT TO SUBMIT SOME THOUGHTS ON THIS SUBJECT PRIOR TO OUR MAY MEETING.

4. ADDITIONALLY, ASSUMING THE NECESSARY COORDINATION AND COOPERATION WITH THE IEA AND NEA IS ACHIEVED IN RELATION TO PROJECTS CONTAINED IN COMMITTEE ROOM DOCUMENTS NOS. 8, 9, AND 41, IT IS NOT UNREASONABLE TO ASSUME THAT SOME OF THE NEEDED RESOURCES COULD BE CONTRIBUTED TO THE PROJECTS BY THE ENERGY AGENCIES THEMSELVES. WE URGE THE SECRETARIAT TO PURSUE THIS POSSIBILITY AND REPORT TO THE COMMITTEE ON THE RESULTS OF ITS EFFORTS.

5. IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION: CONCERNING THE CHEMICALS AREA, WE WISH TO EMPHASIZE THAT, DESPITE THE EXISTENCE UNCLASSIFIED

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OF ONLY TWO PROJECT PROPOSALS IN THIS FIELD, THE GENERAL ACTIVITY IS VERY HIGH PRIORITY AND THERE SHOULD BE NO REDUCTION IN RESOURCES DEVOTED TO IT. IF ANYTHING, MORE RESOURCES SHOULD BE FOCUSED ON THIS PROBLEM.

6. WE ALSO RECOGNIZE THAT WE HAVE HIGH RANKED FOUR ENERGY-ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS, AND THAT IT MAY BE IMPOSSIBLE, TO CONTEMPLATE SO MANY NEW PROJECTS IN ONE AREA, GIVEN THE EXISTING RESOURCES AND ONGOING WORK LOADS. IN SUCH AN EVENTUALITY, OTHER "A" RANKED PROJECTS ON OUR LIST WOULD, OBVIOUSLY, APPROPRIATELY MOVE UP IN PRIORITY, AS WOULD THE HIGHER RANKED PROJECTS ON OUR "B" LIST (E.G., COMMITTEE ROOM DOCUMENT NO. 18).

7. LASTLY, IT IS NOT CLEAR WHAT SYSTEM THE SECRETARIAT PLANS TO USE THIS YEAR TO DEVELOP ITS PRELIMINARY READING OF THE MEMBER COUNTRIES' PRIORITIES. IF THE INTENTION IS NOT TO REPEAT LAST YEAR'S MEETING OF PERMANENT DELEGATIONS, SOME OTHER MECHANISM SHOULD BE SUBSTITUTED WHICH WILL GIVE INTERESTED MEMBERS THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN OTHERS' VIEWS. SUCH A PICTURE OF OTHERS' PRIORITIES IS VERY IMPORTANT WHEN IT COMES TO THE OBVIOUS RE-ORDERING AND REFINEMENT EACH COUNTRY MUST GO THRU PRIOR TO THE MAY MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE. WE THUS URGE

THE SECRETARIAT TO WORK OUT SOME MECHANISM FOR MAKING COUNTRIES' VOTING RECORDS AND SIGNIFICANT COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC PROJECTS KNOWN TO THE OTHERS WHO ALSO TAKE THE TIME TO ESTABLISH CAREFUL PRIORITIES FOR THIS PRELIMINARY SHAKE-DOWN.

8. CONCERNING OUR SPECIFIC PRIORITIES FROM AMONG THE ALMOST 40 PROPOSED PROJECTS FOR 1978, WE GIVE "A" RATING TO THE FOLLOWING, IN VERY ROUGHLY DESCENDING ORDER OF PRIORITY:

A. ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS OF COAL-AS-FUEL CYCLE (CR DOC. UNCLASSIFIED

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NO. 9)

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS OF NUCLEAR WASTE (CR DOC. NO.8)

C. ENVIRONMENTAL CONSTRAINTS ON ENERGY POLICIES (CR. DOC. NO. 40)

D. ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES OF LARGE SCALE INTRODUCTION OF THE BREEDER (CR DOC. NO. 41)

E. PCBS - FOLLOWUP (CR DOC. NO. 37)

F. HOUSING AND THE ENVIRONMENT IN URBAN CENTERS (CR DOC. NO. 20)

G. INTERNATIONAL RELOCATION OF INDUSTRY (CR DOC. NO. 35)

H. ECONOMIC INCENTIVES AND WASTE MANAGEMENT (CR DOC. NO. 2)

9. THESE PROJECTS ADD UP TO ABOUT 125-MAN MONTHS AS QUANTIFIED IN THE ENCLOSURE TO REF LETTER. ADDITIONALLY, A COUPLE OF THEM (CR DOCS. NO. 40 AND NO. 37) ARE IN OUR VIEW SIGNIFICANTLY UNDERSTAFFED AS PRESENTLY PLANNED. THIS PROBLEM EXEMPLIFIES THE DILEMMA WE THINK THE WHOLE COMMITTEE WILL FACE AND REINFORCES THE REQUEST MADE IN PARAS 3 AND 4 ABOVE.

10. IN RELATION TO SEVERAL OF THESE PROJECTS, WE HAVE SPECIFIC COMMENTS WE HOPE WILL BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT AS THE DRAFT PROGRAM IS FORMULATED. FOR BREVITY, THE PROJECTS ARE IDENTIFIED BY COMMITTEE ROOM DOCUMENT NUMBER ONLY.

A. NO. 9 - AS HAS BEEN STRESSED IN THE COMMITTEE, SUCH A PROJECT MUST BE CLOSELY INTEGRATED WITH RELEVANT WORK UNCLASSIFIED

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OF THE "ENERGY AGENCIES" -- IN THIS CASE, THE IEA. IT CANNOT BE UNDERTAKEN IN A VACUUM AND IT SHOULD BE MUCH CLEARER THAN IT IS THAT THE OUTLINES OF THE PROJECT HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED AND ITS PROSECUTION WILL BE COORDINATED WITH THE IEA'S WORK ON COAL. IN VIEW OF THE VERY HIGH IMPORTANCE OF COAL USE IN MANY MEMBERS IN THE FUTURE, WE WONDER WHETHER, RESOURCES PERMITTING, THE IMPACTS OF OTHER METHODS OF "CLEAN COAL COMBUSTION" (E.G., SOLVENT REFINING) MIGHT NOT ALSO BE LOOKED AT.

B. NO. 8 - THE SAME STRONG CAVEAT RELATES TO THIS PROJECT AND ITS COORDINATION WITH THE ONGOING WORK OF THE NEA. ALSO, THIS PROJECT SEEMS SOMEWHAT TOO BROADLY FOCUSED AND PLANS TO TRY TO DO TOO MUCH. FOR EXAMPLE, WHILE IT IS TRUE THAT PUBLIC AND INSTITUTIONAL ISSUES ARE MAJOR PROBLEMS, CAN THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE CONSTRUCTIVELY "HELP" MEMBERS IN THIS AREA? ALSO, WE THINK IT WOULD BE BOTH APPROPRIATE AND USEFUL IF SOME OF THE CLEARLY INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES RELATED TO MULTI-NATIONAL, REGIONAL NUCLEAR SITES (DISPOSAL, ETC.) COULD BE REVIEWED.

C. NO. 40 - THE GENERAL THEME IS OF MAJOR INTEREST, BUT WE BELIEVE THE PROJECT IS MUCH TOO NEGATIVELY DRAWN. IT IS NEITHER NECESSARY NOR APPROPRIATE FOR THE COMMITTEE TO TAKE THE APPROACH THAT ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS ARE MERELY "CONSTRAINTS." ALSO, WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE THIS PROJECT BREAK AWAY AT LEAST SOMEWHAT FROM A REVIEW OF THE RESULTS OF THE DISCRETE ENERGY-ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS THE COMMITTEE HAS BEEN WORKING ON, AND GET INTO THE BROADER ENERGY-ENVIRONMENT POLICY AREAS -- EVEN IF THEY ARE CONTROVERSIAL. LASTLY, THIS PROJECT PRESUMABLY WILL HAVE TO HAVE SIGNIFICANTLY MORE RESOURCES DEVOTED TO IT IF IT IS TO PRODUCE ANYTHING MEANINGFUL.

D. NO. 41 - AS WITH PROJECT 8, THIS ONE MUST BE INTEGRATED WITH WORK BEING DONE IN THE NEA ON THE BREEDER AND UNCLASSIFIED

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PLUTONIUM ECONOMY. THERE IS NO EVIDENCE IN THE PROJECT PROPOSAL THAT THERE HAS BEEN ANY SUCH COORDINATION EVEN IN THIS PLANNING STAGE.

E. NO. 37 - AS THE PROPOSAL ITSELF NOTES, "IT WOULD SEEM APPROPRIATE TO EXAMINE THE QUESTION OF LABELLING AND MARKING IN THE WIDER CONTEXT OF HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS IN GENERAL." WE AGREE AND BELIEVE THIS IS A VERY IMPORTANT PART OF THE ONGOING WORK OF THE CHEMICALS GROUP. IT SHOULD BE GIVEN SIGNIFICANTLY MORE RESOURCES THAN THE MEAGER 6-MAN MONTHS INDICATED.

F. NO. 20 - WE STRONGLY SUPPORT THIS PROJECT, BUT BELIEVE IT SHOULD BE SOMEWHAT REFINED TO MAKE IT OF OPTIMUM VALUE. WE HAVE THUS PREPARED A REVISED VERSION, RETITLED, "IMPROVING THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT THROUGH INNOVATION IN HOUSING AND LAND MANAGEMENT POLICIES." THIS VERSION NOW INCLUDES KEY ELEMENTS OF THE PROJECTS CONTAINED IN COMMITTEE ROOM DOCUMENTS NOS. 19, 25, AND 42. WE STRONGLY SUPPORT ITS INCLUSION IN THE COMMITTEE'S 1978 WORK PROGRAM WITH AN ALLOCATION OF 12-MAN MONTHS IN 1978. THE TEXT OF OUR PROPOSED REVISION IS BEING CABLED SEPARATELY.

G. NO. 35 - THE EXISTING PROJECT PROPOSAL NEEDS SOME FLESHING OUT. HOWEVER, PARTICULARLY AS IT PROPOSES TO DEAL WITH THE "FLIGHT OF HAZARDOUS INDUSTRIES," IT IS IMPORTANT. THIS TIES CLOSELY IN TO THE BROAD WORK OF THE CHEMICALS GROUP, THE TFP GROUP, AND THE ECONOMIC EXPERTS GROUP, PLUS HAVING SOME SIGNIFICANT "NORTH-SOUTH" IMPLICATIONS.

H. NO. 2 - AS NOW DEFINED, THIS IS A LOW "A" IN OUR PRIORITIES. HOWEVER, THE WHOLE QUESTION OF WASTE MANAGEMENT HAS MAJOR IMPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERS' ENERGY POLICIES AND SERIOUS INTERNATIONAL RAMIFICATIONS VIS A VIS THE USE OF RESOURCES AND TRADE. BY BROADENING THE PROJECT UNCLASSIFIED

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OR INTEGRATING IT MORE WITH THESE KEY UNDERLYING ISSUES, A CONSIDERABLY HIGHER PRIORITY CAN BE JUSTIFIED.

11. CONCERNING OUR MIDDLE RANKING, WE GIVE THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS A "B" RATING -- IN NO PARTICULAR ORDER OF PREFERENCE (HOWEVER, SEE FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS):

CONTROL OF WASTE LAND AT THE PERIPHERY OF URBAN AREAS (CR DOC. NO. 18);

BETTER USE OF VEHICLES (CR DOC. NO. 1);

ENERGY USE IN MOTOR TRANSPORT (CR DOC. NO.6);

SITING OF INDUSTRIAL COMPLEXES (CR DOC. 7);

NOISE CONFERENCE (CR DOC. 21);

AT SOURCE SEGREGATION OF WASTE (CR DOC. 15);

SEPARATION OF DOMESTIC WASTES (CR DOC. 38);

ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS AND GROWTH SCENARIOS (CR DOC. 4);

ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS OF DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE (CR DOC.

NO. 26);

MEASURES FOR HANDLING CONSTRUCTION WASTE (CR DOC. NO.29);

PROTECTION OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT IN THE ECONOMIC  
ZONE (CR DOC. NO. 16);

INTERNATIONAL RECYCLING MARKS (CR DOC. 43);

DEVELOPMENT OF POLLUTION EXPENDITURE DATA BANK (CR DOC.  
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NO. .

12. WE VOLUNTEER SPECIFIC COMMENTS ON A FEW OF THESE  
PROJECTS:

A. NO. 18 - THIS IS OUR NUMBER TWO PRIORITY AMONG THE  
MANY "LAND USE AND URBAN QUESTIONS" PROJECTS. BOTH HUD  
AND THE CEQ ARE QUITE POSITIVE ABOUT THIS PROJECT AND  
WOULD LIKE TO SEE IT INCLUDED IN THE 1978 PROGRAM.IT IS NOT  
RATED "A" FOR REASONS OF PRIORITIES AND RESOURCES ALREADY  
NOTED.

B. NO. 1 AND NO. 6 - WE SUPPORT THE WORK OF THE GROUP  
OF EXPERTS ON TRAFFIC POLICIES FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF  
THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT AND WISH TO SEE IT ACTIVELY CONTINUE.  
CONCERNING THESE SPECIFIC PROJECTS, IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE  
TO COMBINE ALL OR PARTS OF THEM IN SOME WAY, THUS SAVING  
CONSIDERABLE RESOURCES. (SEPARATELY, THEY ALLEGEDLY  
WOULD CLAIM A VERY EXCESSIVE 34-MAN MONTHS OF EFFORT IN  
1978.)

C. NO. 21 - WE SUPPORT THE IDEA OF A CONFERENCE. HOWEVER,  
IN THIS DAY OF LIMITED RESOURCES AND NARROWING PRIORITIES,  
WE CANNOT SUPPORT ANYTHING CLOSE 18-MAN MONTHS OF SECRE-  
TARIAT RESOURCES BEING DEVOTED TO IT DURING 1978.

D. NO. 15 AND NO. 38 - WE AGREE THAT THESE COULD EASILY  
BE COMBINED INTO ONE PROJECT. AS NOTED ALREADY, WE SUP-  
PORT SUCH WASTE MANAGEMENT PROJECTS PARTICULARLY AS THEY  
RELATE TO ENERGY ISSUES.

E. NO. 3 - THE MAN MONTHS ALLOCATED TO THIS PROPOSAL ARE  
TOO LIMITED IF IT IS TO AMOUNT TO ANYTHING. IT IS NOT  
WORTHWHILE IF IT MERELY RESULTS IN A COLLECTION OF EXISTING  
INFORMATION FROM THE FEW MEMBERS WHO HAVE ANYTHING TO  
CONTRIBUTE.  
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F. NO. 26 - WHILE A U.S. PROPOSAL, WE HOPE IT WILL BE  
TAKEN UP IN THE FIRST INSTANCE BY THE DAC, WHERE IT MORE  
APPROPRIATELY BELONGS.

13. CONCERNING THOSE PROJECTS WHICH WE LOW RANK, THE  
FOLLOWING ARE GIVEN A "C" FOR A VARIETY OF DIFFERENT

REASONS, DEPENDING ON THE PROJECT:

SOLAR (CR DOC. NO. 10);

SUPERSONIC TRANSPORT (CR DOC. NO. 32);

MATCHING URBAN SERVICES TO COMMUNITY NEEDS (CR DOC. NO. 23);

URBAN RENOVATION (CR DOC. NO. 33);

MNC INVESTMENT GUIDELINES (CR DOC. NO. 36);

CONTROL OF CARCINOGENS IN DRINKING WATER (CR DOC. NO.14);

WASTE EXCHANGE BOARDS (CR DOC. NO. 31) -- UNLESS AUSTRIA  
HANDLES THE PROJECT ON A PILOT COUNTRY BASIS AND IT THUS  
REQUIRES NO SECRETARIAT RESOURCES.

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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